



## **Arctic Science and Education organizations strengthen cooperation**

### **IASC, IASSA, and UArctic sign Letter of Agreement**

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Three of the Arctic region's key actors in the field of science, research, and higher education agreed today on a framework of mutual cooperation. The agreement was signed at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI), St Petersburg, Russia. The International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the University of the Arctic (UArctic) will broaden already existing collaboration to promote international and multi-disciplinary cooperation in Arctic research, education and outreach. The outcome of this cooperation will especially build on the legacies of the International Polar Year (2007-2008).

Joan Nyman Larsen of IASSA "welcomes this agreement with IASC and UArctic as yet another step in our growing partnership, to combine our efforts to build capacity and work to achieve real advances in arctic research through our common interests to stimulate and promote international collaboration and secure a long-term legacy for IPY."

The three organizations have a number of common interests and a solid history of working together in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest. The agreement will also help the communication of scientific output to students and the general public.

"The International Arctic Science Committee is looking forward to enhancing our collaboration with IASSA and UArctic. Several joint activities were initiated during the International Polar Year and sustaining these and new efforts will ensure a significant contribution to the legacy of IPY," says David Hik, President of IASC.

The agreement directly addresses the request from the Ninth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, (Brussels 13-15 September 2010) for the organizations to enhance their collaborative efforts to support research, education and access to information in the Arctic.

UArctic President Lars Kullerud notes that, "this agreement creates a common foundation to develop the next generation of young scientists by bridging higher education activities with research programs. It will also ensure that the results of scientific research are readily accessible and relevant for students and other stakeholders through the creation out new outreach activities."

## **IASSA**

IASSA is a professional association based on voluntary membership. For the purposes of the association, both the Arctic and the social sciences are defined in broad and inclusive manner, encompassing all Arctic and Subarctic regions, and all disciplines pertaining to the humanities and the social sciences. The goal is to promote and stimulate international cooperation and to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international arctic research; to promote communication and coordination with other related organizations; and to promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and the peoples of the north, while recognizing these are not mutually exclusive groups.

## **IASC**

IASC is a non-governmental, international scientific organization whose mission is to encourage and facilitate cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. IASC is an International Scientific Associate of the International Council for Science (ICSU). To fulfill its mission, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge multi-disciplinary research in order to foster greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the Earth system.

## **UArctic**

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. Our members share resources, facilities, and expertise to build post-secondary education programs that are relevant and accessible to northern students. Our overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and northern communities through education and shared knowledge.

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